



# Keeney Cub Chronicles

September 2015

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Malan

## From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Martin-Beaulieu

*Greetings Keeney Community and Welcome Back to School!*

The first several days of school have gone very well so far at Keeney. We have begun to build relationships with each other and are learning routines, procedures and how to establish a positive school-wide community of learners.

This year we have the opportunity to welcome several new staff members. Throughout this month's newsletter you will be introduced to many of them and learn about the services they provide to our school.

In addition to the new people at Keeney, we have a new twist on a focus we have always had at Keeney. During the past few years, Keeney staff and students have been practicing ways to treat each other to make sure we all feel respected, safe, and happy. This year, each grade level has read the book "Have you filled a bucket today?" by Carol McCloud. This book teaches about different ways we can make other people feel good by filling their buckets with good deeds, compliments, and other behaviors that promote positive feelings. Throughout the year, you will hear us talk about being bucket fillers in school and how that helps make Keeney a better place for all of us. Please ask your child about this and feel free to discuss ways to be bucket fillers outside of school as well!

I wish each of you a wonderful 2015-2016 school year and as always feel free to contact the school at any point should you have questions, concerns, or just things you'd like to share with us! We are partners in your child's educational experience and I look forward to growing our partnership this year.

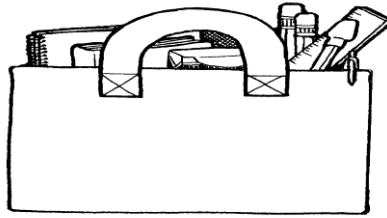


I'm **Megan Thompson** and I write to reintroduce myself to you. As you know from Julie's email earlier this summer, I am embarking on a new adventure in school leadership. This year, I have stepped out of the classroom and into the position of **Resident Principal at Keeney**. (I am also stepping into the role of Keeney parent as our oldest son has official become a Preschool Cub!)

As a resident principal in the UCAPP (University of Connecticut Administrator Preparation Program) Residency, my work is categorized into four learning areas; Talent Management, Organizational Leadership, Instructional Leadership, and Personal Leadership. Translated, my daily responsibilities are similar to those of Julie or any Manchester school leader.

The UCAPP Residency program is designed so that the resident principal is able to acquire new learning in the most natural setting, the school; much like learning through a medical residency takes place in a hospital setting. My schedule is constructed so that I will be at Keeney four days a week (Monday-Thursday), and I will meet with my cohort for class each Friday. I believe that the new knowledge I will absorb through this unique, hands-on approach will be incredibly beneficial to my growth as a leader.

I am very excited to take on this new role in my home school under a mentor whom I very much respect and feel I can learn from. I know I will also be supported and guided by the talented colleagues that surround me, and I look forward to meeting and developing relationships with the students and families that make our school such a wonderful place to be.



Hello Keeney Community,

My name is **Tom Nicholas** and I am the new school **Social Worker** at Keeney. I have been in Manchester for 26 years and have worked at Highland Park, Bennet Middle School, Bennet Academy, Bentley Alternative, Buckley and Birth to Three.

I am thrilled to be at Keeney and look forward to the coming year.

A couple passions of mine are SCUBA diving, traveling and the theater.



Hi there,

My name is **Ken Garrison** and I am the new **band teacher**. While I am new to Keeney, I have taught at six other elementary schools in Manchester over the past 16.5 years. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and teaching your children!



I am **Jackie Ferland**, one of the **preschool** teachers at Keeney Elementary. This is my first year being a part of the Manchester Public School community, and I am very excited to work with such aspiring, positive, motivated, and supportive staff members and families. I am looking forward to all of the magical memories we will create this year!



My name is **Lisa Griffen**. I have taught Head Start in town for the last 22 years. I am excited to be joining the Keeney school community as one of the **preschool teachers**. I am looking forward to building new relationships with colleagues, students and their families. I will bring to Keeney my love of learning, commitment to excellence and the joy of both singing and dancing. I live with my beloved cats, Kate and Jack. I am looking forward to a fantastic educational adventure!



Hello! My name is **Ms. Plonski** and teaching is an absolute passion of mine. I am a **new teacher** at Keeney Street Elementary, and I will be **teaching first grade**. This will be my first year teaching! Before that, I was a long-term substitute in Mrs. Woble's kindergarten class at Keeney. I also completed my student teaching at Keeney. It is my mission to instill a love of learning in all of the students in my classroom. I want all of my students to develop the desire to follow their curiosities and become life-long learners. I am so excited to be a part of the Keeney team and to get to know all of the amazing Keeney Cubs and their families!

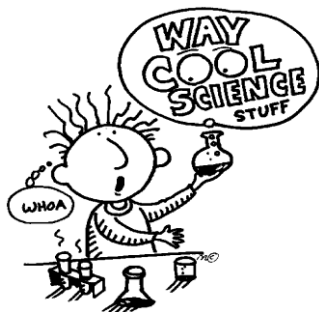


My name is **Chelsea Gordon** and I have been teaching for nine years. For the past eight years I worked at Verplanck Elementary School. I have a lot of experience in the areas of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, School Governance Council, School Improvement Teams, Social Thinking, Student Council and Yearbook and love technology. I am passionate about teaching and learning and love to be hands on and do investigative learning. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree and my Teaching Certificate K-6; and my Master of Science degree in Educational Technology; from Eastern Connecticut State University. For fun, I like to teach Zumba classes, play guitar, sing, dance and run! I have a 16 month old son and am married to Mr. Gordon, who

teaches 5th grade at Washington Elementary School in Manchester! I am very excited about my new adventure at Keeney Street School!



My name is **Kaitlyn Sawyer** and I am a **speech-language pathologist** for the district. I will be working with Ms. Scarpa's **integrated preschool** class this year. I look forward to working at Keeney and being a part of the community.



I hope that you all have had a wonderful summer and are ready for an exciting school year at Keeney Elementary School. My name is **Jodi Soloperto** and I am the new **STEM specialist** at Keeney Elementary School for **Kindergarten through grade 2**. I am extremely excited to be able to implement this new STEM initiative at Keeney. This STEM program will provide hands on learning experiences directly related to the district's science curriculum to all students. I truly love science having majored in it before becoming an elementary teacher and am thrilled to be able to pass that love and joy along to your children. This year has started with an introduction to what science is and what scientists do. Once those introductions are finished, we will venture into a discussion covering the important skill of observation before beginning our units of instruction for each grade. *Kindergarten* will begin the year learning about clouds and how to take ongoing weather observations. The *first graders* will start off the year learning about forces and how things can be moved by pushing and pulling. *Second graders* will be kicking off the year with a unit about nutrition and eating healthy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at [jsoloperto@mpspride.org](mailto:jsoloperto@mpspride.org) or through the main office at Keeney. I'm looking forward to a great year with your children and can't wait to get them excited about learning science!



I hope that you had a restful summer, and it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you back for what will be a very successful 2015/2016 school year! My name is **Kara Seaha**, and I will be the **STEM specialist** within Keeney's **grade 3-5 classrooms**. I, along with the rest of the staff, look forward to implementing the new STEM program within our school district. In doing so, we will provide inquiry based learning experiences directly correlated to the district's science curriculum which promote active learning and exploration within the classroom. I am very passionate about the study of science and believe that its implementation within the classroom is crucial to building a strong educational foundation for all students. We have begun the school year across all grade levels participating in community building activities and discussing why it is so important that we take the time to study science and all of its components. Students were given the opportunity to illustrate and share their creative ideas as to what it is a scientist does and what we will have to do in order to be successful scientists this year. *In grade 3*, we will begin our first unit on adaptations to habitats and the ways in which various plants and animals' structures and behaviors help them to survive in different environments. *In grade 4*, we will dive into our study of energy and habitats and the ways in which animals depend on plants in order to provide the food and energy needed for them to grow and survive. *In grade 5*, we will begin to discover the ways in which the positions of the Earth and Moon in relationship to the Sun explain the cycles of day and night and the monthly moon phases. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [kseaha@mpspride.org](mailto:kseaha@mpspride.org) or through the main office at Keeney. I look forward to a rewarding year with your children!



My name is **Kristen Mortensen**. This will be my first year as the **occupational therapist** at Keeney school. I am excited to get to know everyone and will be treating at Keeney on Mondays and Wednesdays.



Hi, I'm **John Fournier**, Keeney's new **Family Resource Center Coordinator**. Before taking on this role, I spent about ten years doing substance abuse prevention work in eastern Connecticut. The work involved bringing together an entire community, working with educators, parents, police, town governments, and many others. I hope to bring that same spirit of collaboration into my role as Family Resource Center Coordinator. The year ahead will include positive youth development groups with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, outreach at various school and community events, and much more. I'm here to be a resource for all parents and students, so never hesitate to call or email!

# Keeney Street School PTA

## Welcome Keeney Families!

Here at Keeney Street School your child is supported by a very active and energetic Parent Teacher Association or PTA. We provide many quality programs and fine arts assemblies that enrich your child's scholastic experience. We also offer many fun-filled events that the entire family can enjoy together. The children of Keeney School, our "Cubs" are our priority.

We believe that your child will benefit in many ways when you get involved with the school. The PTA strives to offer many opportunities for parents to step into their child's school-world. When you do, you will see your child's educational experience blossom even more!

***Please join us at our first meeting Tuesday September 8 from 6:30-7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Bring the kids! We provide childcare with the Lutz Children's Museum during our meetings. All members that register before our October meeting will be entered in a raffle drawing for special Keeney prizes. Please check us out - you'll be glad you did!***

### **September PTA Fundraisers and Family Events:**

- September PTA Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Bring the kids...The Lutz will be on hand with an educational program!
- Keeney Open House – **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm. Come and meet your child's teacher and see all of the wonderful things that they're learning about.
- Back-To-School Picnic – **Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00 – 7:00pm. All Keeney Families, Teachers and Staff are welcome to come. Bring your picnic blankets, and beach balls for a great time.
- Early Dismissal – **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** at 1:17pm.



- The Running Cubs are back and they start **Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Registration forms went home this week. Contact Patricia Allen at (860) 268-1663 or email [patalen614@gmail.com](mailto:patalen614@gmail.com) with questions/concerns or if you're able to volunteer to help.
- Burger Fi Fundraiser – **Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 5:00 – 9:00pm. Take the night off from cooking and join Keeney friends at Burger Fi in Manchester. 10% of proceeds benefit the PTA.
- Our Fall **Cristoline Fundraiser** went home last week. Be sure and check out all the beautiful items available for the fall. Something for yourself, for the holidays or just something for FUN! Order deadline is **Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your support!
- Spirit Day...**Friday, September 25**. It's HAT DAY! Wear your favorite hat and show off your Keeney Spirit! A suggested \$1 donation to your Keeney PTA is greatly appreciated!
- First Keeney Community Tag Sale will be held on **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00am-1:00pm. Do you have junk to get rid of? Rent a table for \$15 and you keep the profit. Want to help raise money for the PTA? Donate items! For more information contact Amber Moriarty at [amberbella199@yahoo.com](mailto:amberbella199@yahoo.com).
- October PTA Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 in the cafeteria. Our special guest speaker that evening will be Matt Geary, Superintendent. Come and hear what he has to say about the positive things happening in our schools. Bring the kids...the Lutz will be on hand with another children's program.
- Box Tops for Education. There is a collection bin in the hallway, right in front of the school office. Please send in your box tops and be sure they have not expired. Questions...email Connie Anglin at [Connie@company23.com](mailto:Connie@company23.com). Help us make a difference for the Keeney Cubs.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

Come to our meeting and find out how you too can get involved. We look forward to meeting you all!



**WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9TH  
FROM 6:00 - 7:00.**

**Open House Information:**

This year our Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th from 6:00 - 7:00. You are welcome to bring your children to the open house as they will show you their classroom and share some information and experiences they have had in school so far this year. You can expect the following from your open house experience at Keeney on Wednesday:

1. **Conference Sign Up:** This year we will have our conference sign up sheets in the cafeteria. This will allow you to sign up for all of your children in one location.
2. **Tour of the classroom:** When you come to Open House, you are invited to visit your child's classroom with your child. At that time the teacher and your child can give you a tour of the room where your child spends most of his or her day!
3. **Tour of the school:** Your child can take you on a tour of the school and introduce you to other teachers such as our specialists and support staff.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Upcoming Events:**

Tuesday September 8th: PTA meeting 6:30 in the cafeteria

Wednesday September 9th: Open House 6:00 - 7:00

Friday September 11th: Keeney Family Picnic 5:00 - 7:00

Wednesday September 16th: Teacher Learning Day: 1:17 dismissal for students

Wednesday September 23rd: PTA Fundraiser Burger Fi 5:00 - 9:00

Saturday September 26th: PTA Tag Sale 9:00 - 1:00

### Keeney Drop-Off/Pick-Up

There are a few hiccups during morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal, but we would like to thank all families for being patient as we work to make this system run as efficiently as possible. Here are a few points to make note of:



### **Morning Drop-Off**

#### **MELC**

Parents may quickly park in the bus loop to drop kids off at *MELC before 8:15 am*. After 8:15 we ask that you park in the lot and escort your child in to free the loop for Pre-K drop-off.

#### **Pre-K**

Parents dropping off Pre-K students are asked to join the bus loop and remain in the car. Pre-K staff will escort kids to and from the building from the far entry door. To make room for the larger K-5 buses arriving around 8:35 am (to drop many students to breakfast), we ask that Pre-K parents arriving on campus *after 8:35 am* to park on Primer Road and walk your child to the building.

#### **Walkers**

Cars are welcome to join the side loop to drop kids off in the morning. We ask that you follow the cues of staff members directing traffic. Children should not be dropped off in the parking lot.

### **Afternoon Pick-Up**

Dismissal time for elementary schools is 3:25 pm.

#### **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten students will be dismissed from the front door a few minutes prior to dismissal. Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to meet them as they are escorted out of the building.

#### **Grades 1-5**

All other "walking" cubs will exit the side gym door. Staff members will assist students to their cars. We ask that no one park and/or exit vehicles in the car

loop as we need to keep traffic moving. Again staff members are assigned around campus to help direct you.